

REMARKS

This response is filed in response to the Office Action mailed February 25, 2004 having a shortened statutory response period ending on May 25, 2004. Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,115,133 to Watanabe (*Watanabe*). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections as *Watanabe* fails to teach or suggest the subject matter recited in the present claims.

At a minimum, *Watanabe* fails to teach or suggest a print control apparatus and/or method which includes 1) a print driver that converts application program files into print data and 2) a print data processing means that changes the converted print data responsive to user operations as recited in the present claims. Rather, *Watanabe's* print driver merely adjusts and prints data from application program files. *Watanabe*, col. 2 lines 65-66, col. 3 lines 20-22, col. 3 lines 49-50. *Watanabe* has no teaching or suggestion whatsoever that application program files are converted into print data. This is readily apparent as *Watanabe* requires a test page to be printed in order to verify that the selected print settings are proper. *Watanabe*, col. 3 lines 6-7, col. 4 lines 9-12. The skilled artisan will recognize that the claimed invention reciting changing the converted print data with the print data processing means ensures that the displayed print content in the preview window will be the same as what the printer actually prints — thereby eliminating the need for a test print. Thus, *Watanabe* merely discloses what is conventional in the art and fails to teach or remotely suggest the subject matter of the present claims.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-8 are in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit reconsideration of same.

Respectfully submitted,

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